

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, comprising:

providing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods require different amounts of time to analyze for malicious code;

selecting a fastest one of the malicious code detection methods;

analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method;

determining a probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis;

selecting a next fastest one of the malicious code detection methods and repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

outputting a result of the analysis if the probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

2. A method of selecting a detection method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least some of the malicious code detecting methods use heuristic logic to detect for malicious code.

3. A method of selecting a detection method as recited in claim 1, wherein the fastest one of the malicious code detecting methods is a least accurate one of the plurality of malicious code

detecting methods.

4. A method of selecting a detection method as recited in claim 1, wherein a slowest one of the malicious code detecting methods is a most accurate one of the plurality of malicious code detecting methods.

5. A method of selecting a detection method as recited in claim 1, further comprising prompting a user to input a value to be used as the predetermined level.

6. A method of selecting a detection method as recited in claim 5, further comprising receiving the value input by the user and using the value as the predetermined level.

7. A system for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods require different amounts of time to analyze for malicious code;

means for selecting a fastest one of the malicious code detection methods;

means for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method and outputting a result of the analysis;

means for determining a probability of accuracy of the result of the analysis;

means for selecting a next fastest one of the malicious code detection methods and

repeating the analyzing and determining, if the probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

outputting a result of the analysis if the probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

8. A system for selecting a detection method as recited in claim 7, wherein at least some of the malicious code detecting methods use heuristic logic to detect for malicious code.

9. A system for selecting a detection method as recited in claim 7, wherein the fastest one of the malicious code detecting methods is a least accurate one of the plurality of malicious code detecting methods.

10. A system for selecting a detection method as recited in claim 7, wherein a slowest one of the malicious code detecting methods is a most accurate one of the plurality of malicious code detecting methods.

11. A system for selecting a detection method as recited in claim 7, further comprising means for prompting a user to input a value to be used as the predetermined level.

12. A system for selecting a detection method as recited in claim 11, further comprising means for receiving the value input by the user and using the value as the predetermined level.

13. A storage medium including computer executable code for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, the computer executable code comprising:

code including a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods require different amounts of time to analyze for malicious code;

code for selecting a fastest one of the malicious code detection methods;

code for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method;

code for determining a probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis;

code for selecting a next fastest one of the malicious code detection methods and repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

code for outputting a result of the analysis if the probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

14. A storage medium as recited in claim 13, wherein at least some of the malicious code detecting methods use heuristic logic to detect for malicious code.

15. A storage medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the fastest one of the malicious code detecting methods is a least accurate one of the plurality of malicious code detecting methods.

16. A storage medium as recited in claim 13, wherein a slowest one of the malicious code detecting methods is a most accurate one of the plurality of malicious code detecting methods.

17. A storage medium as recited in claim 13, further comprising code for prompting a user to input a value to be used as the predetermined level.

18. A storage medium as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for receiving the value input by the user and using the value as the predetermined level.

19. A programmed computer system including computer executable code for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, the system comprising:

storage for storing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods require different amounts of time to analyze for malicious code;

a unit for reading and executing computer executable code, the computer executable code comprising,

code for selecting a fastest one of the malicious code detection methods,

code for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method,

code for determining a probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis, and

code for selecting a next fastest one of the malicious code detection methods and

repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

an output unit for outputting a result of the analysis if the probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

20. A programmed computer system as recited in claim 19, wherein at least some of the malicious code detecting methods use heuristic logic to detect for malicious code.

21. A programmed computer system as recited in claim 19, wherein the fastest one of the malicious code detecting methods is a least accurate one of the plurality of malicious code detecting methods.

22. A programmed computer system as recited in claim 19, wherein a slowest one of the malicious code detecting methods is a most accurate one of the plurality of malicious code detecting methods.

23. A programmed computer system as recited in claim 19, further comprising a unit for prompting a user to input a value to be used as the predetermined level.

24. A programmed computer system as recited in claim 23, further comprising a unit for receiving the value input by the user and using the value as the predetermined level.

25. A method of selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, comprising:

providing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods have different expected degrees of accuracy when analyzing for malicious code;

selecting a malicious code detection method having a lowest expected degree of accuracy;

analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method;

determining an actual probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis;

selecting a next least accurate malicious code detection method and repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the actual probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

outputting a result of the analysis if the actual probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

26. A system for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods have different expected degrees of accuracy when analyzing for malicious code;

means for selecting a malicious code detection method having a lowest expected degree

of accuracy;

means for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method and outputting a result of the analysis;

means for determining an actual probability of accuracy of the result of the analysis;

means for selecting a next expected least accurate malicious code detection method and repeating the analyzing and determining, if the actual probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

outputting a result of the analysis if the actual probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

27. A storage medium including computer executable code for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, the computer executable code comprising:

code including a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods have different expected degrees of accuracy when analyzing for malicious code;

code for selecting a fastest one of the malicious code detection methods;

code for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method;

code for determining an actual probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis;

code for selecting a next expected least accurate malicious code detection method and repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the actual probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

code for outputting a result of the analysis if the actual probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

28. A programmed computer system including computer executable code for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, the system comprising:

storage for storing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods have different expected degrees of accuracy when analyzing for malicious code;

a unit for reading and executing computer executable code, the computer executable code comprising,

code for selecting a malicious code detection method having a lowest expected degree of accuracy,

code for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method,

code for determining an actual probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis, and

code for selecting a next expected least accurate malicious code detection method and repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the actual probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

an output unit for outputting a result of the analysis if the actual probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

29. A method of selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, comprising:

providing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods require use of different amounts of computer resources to analyze for malicious code;

selecting a malicious code detection method requiring use of the least amount of computer resources;

analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method;

determining a probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis;

selecting a malicious code detection method requiring the use of the next least amount of computer resources and repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

outputting a result of the analysis if the probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

30. A system for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods require use of different amounts of computer resources to analyze for malicious code;

means for selecting a malicious code detection method requiring the use of the least

amount of computer resources;

means for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method and outputting a result of the analysis;

means for determining a probability of accuracy of the result of the analysis;

means for selecting a malicious code detection method requiring the next least amount of computer resources and repeating the analyzing and determining, if the probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

outputting a result of the analysis if the probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

31. A storage medium including computer executable code for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, the computer executable code comprising:

code including a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods require use of different amounts of computer resources to analyze for malicious code;

code for selecting a malicious code detection method requiring the use of a least amount of computer resources;

code for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method;

code for determining a probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis;

code for selecting a malicious code detection method requiring use of the next least amount of computer resources and repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the

probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

code for outputting a result of the analysis if the probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.

32. A programmed computer system including computer executable code for selecting a detection method for analyzing computer code for malicious code, the system comprising:

storage for storing a plurality of malicious code detection methods, wherein at least some of the malicious code detection methods require use of different amounts of computer resources to analyze for malicious code;

a unit for reading and executing computer executable code, the computer executable code comprising,

code for selecting a malicious code detection method requiring use of a lowest amount of computer resources,

code for analyzing computer code for malicious code using the selected malicious code detection method,

code for determining a probability of accuracy of a result of the analysis, and

code for selecting a malicious code detection method requiring use of a next least amount of computer resources and repeating the analyzing and determining steps, if the probability of accuracy is below a predetermined level; and

an output unit for outputting a result of the analysis if the probability of accuracy is at or above the predetermined level.